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RELEASE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1982

PERILS OF THE U.S.-SOVIET FIGHT FOR 'HEGEMONY'

BY CARL T. ROWAN

BOCA RATON, FLA. -- AS THE DRAMA INTENSIFIES OVER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA, IT BEGINS TO APPEAR THAT AS HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR 50 OR MORE CENTURIES, THE CHINESE SPEAK WITH WISDOM.

OUR ORIENTAL FRIENDS ARE CONSTANTLY ARTICULATING THEIR BELIEF THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE TRYING TO CARVE UP THE WORLD INTO TWO AREAS, WITH AN "UNDERSTANDING" THAT EACH COUNTRY IS TO HAVE UNCHALLENGED CONTROL OVER ITS AREA.

THE DANGER THAT WE WILL ALL GET INCINERATED IN A NUCLEAR WAR IS HEIGHTENED BY THE FACT THAT BOTH MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON ARE PLAYING GAMES OVER WHICH COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE GET DRAWN INTO WHICH AREA OF HEGEMONY.

IF YOU DO NOT LET YOUR BRAIN GET PARALYZED BY NOTIONS OF PATRIOTISM AND THE ANTI-COMMUNIST RHETORIC THAT IS IN VOGUE AGAIN THESE DAYS, YOU WILL SEE THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE PROVOKED US TO IMITATE THEM, AND THAT WE ARE NOW PLAYING THE HEGEMONY GAME AS RECKLESSLY AS THE KREMLIN.

IN SEPTEMBER 1968 SOVIET COMMUNIST BOSS LEONID BREZHNEV BEGAN TO SPELL OUT WHAT IS NOW CALLED "THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE" -- THAT IS, THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF SOCIALIST STATES IS LIMITED, AND WHEN ONE STARTS TO STRAY FROM THE RESERVATION, THE SOVIET UNION HAS A RIGHT TO INTERVENE "TO PROTECT THE CAUSE OF WORLD SOCIALISM."

THE CZECHS, THE HUNGARIANS, THE AFGHANS, THE POLES CAN TELL YOU A LOT ABOUT THE MEANING OF LIMITED SOVEREIGNTY.

NO ONE HAS ELEVATED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SPEECH ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN BASIN TO A "DOCTRINE," BUT REAGAN DIFFERS LITTLE FROM BREZHNEV WHEN HE SAYS THAT "A DARK FUTURE IS FORESHADOWED BY POVERTY AND REPRESSION OF CASTRO'S CUBA; THE TIGHTENING GRIP OF THE TOTALITARIAN LEFT IN GRENADA AND NICARAGUA; AND THE EXPANSION OF SOVIET-BACKED, CUBAN-MANAGED SUPPORT FOR VIOLENT REVOLUTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA."

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